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HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Coming into Force of New and Amended Hong Kong Legislation Implementing SOLAS Chapter V Requirements

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters, Classification Societies, Shipbuilders and High-Speed Craft Operators

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to draw the attention of the parties concerned to the coming into force, on 1 December 2016, of one (1) piece of new and one (1) piece of amended Hong Kong legislation which implement the requirements on Safety of Navigation as stipulated in Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

1. To implement the latest requirements of SOLAS adopted by IMO, the Secretary for Transport and Housing has made the following regulations under the Merchant Shipping (Safety) Ordinance (Cap.369) —
 - (1) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Navigational Equipment and Safety of Navigation) Regulation (Cap.369BA); and
 - (2) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Minimum Safe Manning Certificate) (Amendment) Regulation 2016 (Cap.369AS).
2. Copies of the above mentioned regulations are attached to this information note as Annexes 1 and 2. They could also be found in the following website of Marine Department <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>
3. These new and amendment regulations will come into operation on 1 December 2016.

4. Brief summaries of these two regulations are as follows:

(1) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Navigational Equipment and Safety of Navigation) Regulation (Cap.369BA):

(a) Part 1 contains preliminary provisions that provide for the commencement and application of the Regulation and define various terms used in the Regulation. Part 2 provides for the navigational systems and equipment that a ship must carry. Part 3 provides for the requirements for safety of navigation.

(b) With the coming into force of this new regulation, the following existing regulations are repealed:

(i) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Automatic Pilot and Testing of Steering Gear) Regulations;

(ii) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Carriage of Nautical Publications) Regulations;

(iii) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Navigational Equipment) Regulations;

(iv) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Navigational Warnings) Regulations;

(v) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Arrangements for Embarkation and Disembarkation of Pilots) Regulation.

(2) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Ship's Manning) Regulation:

The title of Cap.369AS is amended as "Ship's Manning". This amendment regulation includes new provisions on manning of ships, communication language from bridge and working language on ship.

5. Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters, Classification Societies, Shipbuilders and High-Speed Craft Operators are required to take note and comply with the requirements of these new and amended regulations.

Marine Department
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